

Message Text

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12

ACTION ORM-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 H-03 SR-02 IO-14 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /045 W
----- 056526

P 111040Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7767

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, NP

SUBJECT: REFUGEE INFORMATION FOR CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

REF: STATE 047281; KATHMANDU A-138 DEC 1972; A-17 FEB 1973;
A-77 JUNE 1973

1. ACCORDING MOST RECENT AUTHORITATIVE FIGURES, RECONFIRMED BY UNDP, THERE ARE ABOUT 8,000 TIBETAN REFUGEES IN NEPAL (REF B). BECAUSE VAST MAJORITY OF THESE HAVE ACHIEVED STANDARD OF LIVING EQUIVALENT TO THAT EXPERIENCED PRIOR TO MIGRATION AND ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF AVERAGE NEPALESE, UNHCR CLOSED OFFICE AND TRANSFERRED RESIDENT REP LAST JULY, AND HAS ONLY RESIDUAL HOUSING PROGRAMS OF MINOR MAGNITUDES UNDERWAY FOR TIBETANS IN CONJUNCTION WITH HMG AND NEPAL RED CROSS.

2. SOME TIBETAN REFUGEE GROUPS, NOTABLY KHAMPA MILITANTS, HAVE MORE RECENTLY SOUGHT UNHCR ASSISTANCE AS REFUGEES, BUT FORMER UNHCR REP BELIEVED THIS EFFORT TO BE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND RECOMMENDED AGAINST SUCH DESIGNATION AND ASSISTANCE (REF D).

3. MOST OF TIBETANS HAVE BEEN IN COUNTRY FOR PERIOD APPROACHING 12 YEARS REQUIRED RESIDENCY, AND KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES BELIEVE MAJORITY WILL SOON OPT FOR NEPALESE CITIZENSHIP (REF B).

4. WHILE TIBETANS BECAUSE OF ETHNIC DIVERGENCIES WILL PROBABLY
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NEVER BE TOTALLY ASSIMILATED INTO NEPALESE MAINSTREAM (WHICH

IS AT ANY RATE HETEROGENOUS) WOULD APPEAR THAT BULK OF TIBETAN
REFUGEES ARE AS ASSIMILATED AS LOCAL CONDITIONS ALLOW.
CARGO

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NNN

Message Attributes

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